1   What is claimed is:

2   1.   A simulation process, comprising:

3   receiving a message from a system;

4   comparing the received message to information stored in a response file

5   used to simulate system response, the response file including at least one message, a

6   message marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with

7   each message, and an end-of-response marker associated with each response; and

8   simulating a response to the system message by outputting a response

9   stored in association with a stored message matching the received message, upon the

10   received message matching a message stored in the response file, wherein upon at least

11   two responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are

12   sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.

1   2.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the simulation process

2   occurs within the system.

1   3.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the simulation process

2   occurs within a device separate from, but operatively connected to the system.

1   4.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at

2   least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is output a

3   predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

1   5.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at

2   least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response is periodically output

3   irrespective of a received message.

1   6.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file includes at

2   least two different messages, each associated with at least one response.

1   7.   The simulation process of claim 1, further comprising:

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2   storing a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being

3   received a second time, either a second response stored in association with the received

4   message is output, or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in

5   association with the received message.

1   8.   The simulation process of claim 7, wherein sequential responses stored

2   in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon

3   successive receipt of the common message.

1   9.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein sequential responses stored

2   in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon

3   successive receipt of the common message.

1   10.   The simulation process of claim 1, wherein the response file is created

2   using a log file of the system.

1   11.   A simulator, comprising:

2   a memory, adapted to store a response file, the response file being used

3   to simulate system response and including at least one message, a message marker

4   associated with each message, at least one response associated with each message, and

5   an end-of-response marker associated with each response;

6   a comparator, adapted to compare a message received from a system to

7   information stored in the response file to determine whether or not the received message

8   matches a message stored in the response file; and

9   an output device adapted to simulate a response to the system message,

10   upon determining that a received message matches a message stored in the response

11   file, by outputting a response stored in association with the matching stored message,

12   wherein upon at least two responses being stored in association with a message, the at

13   least two responses are sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the

14   message.

1   12.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the simulator is located within the

2   system.

1   13.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the simulator is separate from but

2   operatively connected to the system.

1   14.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the

2   memory, includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the autonomous response

3   is output a predetermined time after simulation begins, irrespective of a received

4   message.

1   15.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the

2   memory, includes at least one autonomous response which is periodically output,

3   irrespective of a received message.

1   16.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file, stored in the

2   memory, includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one

3   response.

1   17.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the memory further stores a record

2   of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second time, either a

3   second response stored in association with the received message is output, or the first

4   response is again output if no second response is stored in association with the received

5   message.

1   18.   The simulator of claim 17, wherein sequential responses stored in the

2   response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon

3   successive receipt of the common message, to simulate a response.

1   19.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein sequential responses stored in the

2   response file in association with a common message are sequentially output upon

3   successive receipt of the common message, to simulate a response.

1   20.   The simulator of claim 11, wherein the response file is created using a

2   log file of the system.

1   21.   An article of manufacture for use in conjunction with a computer,

2   comprising:

3   a first computer readable code segment for causing a computer to

4   compare a message received from a system to information stored in a response file used

5   to simulate system response, the response file including at least one message, a message

6   marker associated with each message, at least one response associated with each

7   message, and an end-of-response marker associated with each response; and

8   a second computer readable code segment for causing a computer to

9   simulate a response to the system message by outputting a response stored in

10   association with a stored message matching the received message, upon the received

11   message matching a message stored in the response file, wherein upon at least two

12   responses being stored in association with a message, the at least two responses are

13   sequentially output in response to sequential receipt of the message.
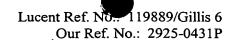
1   22.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the article of

2   manufacture is for use in conjunction with a computer of the system.

1   23.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the article of

2   manufacture is for use in conjunction with a computer separate from, but operatively

3   connected to the system.

1   24.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file

2   includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the second computer readable code

3   segment causes the computer to output the autonomous response a predetermined time

4   after simulation begins, irrespective of a received message.

1   25.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file

2   includes at least one autonomous response, wherein the second computer readable code

3   segment causes the computer to output the autonomous response periodically,

4   irrespective of the received message.

1   26.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the response file

2   includes at least two different messages, each associated with at least one response.

1   27.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising:

2   a third computer readable code segment for causing the computer to

3   store a record of a received message, wherein upon a message being received a second

4   time, either a second response stored in association with the received message is output,

5   or the first response is again output if no second response is stored in association with

6   the received message.

1   28.   The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein sequential responses

2   stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially

3   output upon successive receipt of the common message.

1   29.   The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein sequential responses

2   stored in the response file in association with a common message are sequentially

3   output upon successive receipt of the common message.

1   30.   The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein the response file is

2   created using a log file of the system.